



Meridian Global Journalism Initiative

Now more than ever, amid a global pandemic and a period of social unrest and tumultuous geopolitics, journalists are on the front lines of trying to accurately and truthfully inform citizens around the world about what's happening and how the global news of the day might affect them. Under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to seek and receive news and express opinions. With the Covid-19 pandemic highlighting and amplifying many crises that threaten everyone's right to freely reported, independent, diverse and reliable information, the future of global journalism is at risk.

As an arbiter of democracy, transparency, press freedom and combatting disinformation, Meridian is committed to supporting journalists around the world in the fight against the threat of misinformation. Our mission to strengthen engagement between the United States and the world manifests through three pillars: diplomacy, global leadership and culture. We believe the U.S. is stronger when globally engaged – and ethical journalism plays an essential role in connecting the world through truthfulness, accuracy and transparency. For nearly two decades, Meridian has been building the capacity of international journalists through reporting tours, training, headliner briefings and roundtable discussions with leaders in Washington and across the U.S. to equip these journalists with the global insights, cultural context and collaborative networks to address complex global challenges and opportunities. **Our commitment to continuing this work manifests in the new Meridian Global Journalism Initiative**, which provides a platform for international journalists and communicators to connect, gain insights and exchange perspectives on the news of the day. This initiative aims to offer a holistic view of the United States while strengthening global alliances and the U.S. reputation in the world.

As we look ahead to the next decade, global journalism will be essential to holding leaders accountable for decisions they are making now – which will have monumental impacts for generations to come. Meridian's long-term, multi-pronged approach to global journalism provides a foundation that will help sustain journalism as a profession and public service, and advance shared values of transparency, democracy and freedom of speech.

Who does this initiative help? The Meridian Global Journalism Initiative brings together nonprofits, corporations, foundations, academia and philanthropists whose missions and values support global journalism, press freedom and combatting disinformation; these organizations form a collective of partners that engage with journalists, editors and media outlets in the U.S. and around the world as well as embassy press counselors in Washington, DC. This initiative helps these journalism and communications stakeholders address their expressed needs, which Meridian gathered from interviews and focus groups, including increased access to credible information and sources as well as more collaboration with peers, global newsmakers and industry leaders.



What does this initiative look like? The Meridian Global Journalism Initiative's central themes of world press freedom and combatting disinformation will have three program pillars:

Global Newsmakers

- A speaker series that convenes headliners to discuss critical foreign affairs issues of the day and break news for a curated selection of journalists and diplomats alike to cable home to their constituents and citizens around the world.
- In-person dialogues with a balanced mix of journalists, ambassadors, corporate and public sector leaders to discuss off-record/on background timely issues in the news or related to press freedom or misinformation.
- Awards ceremonies honoring champions of global journalism and world press freedom.

Journalists Roundtable

- A dialogue series that connects foreign correspondents and foreign affairs journalists with peers in the U.S. media, journalism institutions and international embassies to discuss international challenges to world press freedom in today's era of disinformation and the scaling back of newsrooms around the globe.
- Informal opportunities for journalists around the world and within Washington, D.C. to build relationships and exchange ideas, perspectives and questions with one another as well as leaders in the diplomatic, business and public sectors.

Example: In this particular moment, a virtual roundtable series could provide a curated selection of journalists with an opportunity to connect in small groups with ambassadors, private and public sector leaders, among others, on the impacts of COVID-19 and the global outlook for cross-sector, regional cooperation and implications for diplomacy.

Reporting Tours and Training

- Privately funded exchange programs and reporting tours that leverage Meridian's 60 years of professional exchange and journalism training expertise, expanded to journalists based in Washington, D.C. and key regions or countries for our partners.
- Joint reporting tours for journalists and embassy press counselors to locations beyond the beltway to expand their understanding and exposure to more perspectives within America's heartland.
- Creation of a Global Journalism Lab that builds journalists' capacity and accelerates the production of independent, transparent and accurate media, including original content production with partners to bring to light the collaborative approaches to advancing freedom of the press and combatting disinformation around the world.

Why partner with Meridian? As a leader on advancing global access to trustworthy information, you are perfectly positioned to stand with Meridian in our shared commitment to global journalism. Through the Meridian Global Journalism Initiative, you will become part of a collective of other leaders and allies committed to advancing global journalism. Benefits of the partnership include branding, content generation and speaking opportunities, among others to be determined as part of this unique partnership.